

Remarks

The claims were amended in accordance with the amendments above. The amendments to the claims are being made merely to clarify the invention. All of the amendments are fully supported by the specification, claims, and figures as originally filed. No new matter is believed or intended to be involved.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview with the Examiner on 07/10/07. The claims were amended as discussed in the interview (i.e., merely to incorporate subject matter already deemed allowable, as described below). Applicant further appreciates the Examiner's indication that, since the present amendments merely incorporate the subject matter of an allowable dependent claim into independent claims, the present amendments would be entered despite the amendment being filed after a final rejection. Applicant further recognizes that the Examiner reserved the right to update and supplement his search.

In the Office Action dated 02/12/2007, claims 6 and 7 were objected to as being based upon a rejected base claim, but the Office stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Office's indication that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 6, which has been canceled. Independent claim 1 should therefore be in condition for allowance. Independent claim 11 has also been amended to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in claim 6. Independent claim 1 should also therefore be in condition for allowance.

While Applicant has elected to accept the allowed subject matter, please do not misconstrue such acceptance as an acquiescence to the merits of the rejection of claims 1 or 11 or any claims depending therefrom. Instead, this amendment merely marks a decision to quickly obtain allowance of claims 1 and 11 without further prosecution of claims 1 and 11 and the claims depending therefrom. Applicant traverses the present rejections and reserves all rights and arguments.

Based on the foregoing, all pending claims are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early notice of allowance. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the amendments or arguments made herein, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (513)369-4811 or via e-mail at aulmer@fbtlaw.com.

Respectfully submitted,

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